

Message Text

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7434

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNTO 4823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, MILL, NATO

SUBJECT: ECONADS: DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE ALLIANCE

REF: USNATO 4810

1. QUOTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE UK DELEGATION TO MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SPELLING OUT IN DETAIL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE UK REPRESENTATIVE AT THE SEPT. 5 ECONADS MEETING ON DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE ALLIANCE (ED/EC/74/61). MISSION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH VIEW THAT THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SHOULD UNDERTAKE STUDIES ONLY AT THE DIRECTION OF THE CNAD AND ADIT WORKING GROUP IS OVERLY CAUTIOUS. WE BELIEVE THAT STUDIES BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED IN USNATO 4709 COULD SERVE AS BOTH A SPUR AND A USEFUL ADJUNCT TO THE WORK OF THOSE GROUPS. GUIDANCE FOR SEPT. 12 MEETING ON SUBJECT REQUESTED REFTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

1. AS REQUESTED AT TODAY'S MEETING, I AM SENDING YOU AND OUR COLLEAGUES THE BRITISH VIEW, WHICH I EXPLAINED THIS MORNING, CONFIDENTIAL

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ON THE PAPER ON THE ALLIANCE DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (ED/EC/74/61.

2. FIRST OF ALL, WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS

SUBJECT, AND ARE GRATEFUL TO THE DIRECTORATE FOR PRODUCING THIS DRAFT PAPER ON HOW OUR COMMITTEE MIGHT HELP, AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL. BUT WE ARE CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO AVOID UNDERTAKING IMPRACTICALLY COMPLICATED TASKS AND STARTING WORK INDEPENDENTLY OF THE ALLIANCE DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (ADIT) WORKING GROUP AND THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (CNAD) WHICH IN OUR VIEW MUST CONTROL THIS WORK. THIS IS A VERY COMPLEX PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE TACKLED STEP BY STEP, AS MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE SAID. WE SHOULD BEWARE OF EMBARKING ON STUDIES OF SUCH THINGS AS THE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS INDUSTRIES ON WHICH, AS MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE SAID, IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR US TO MAKE ANY USEFUL PROGRESS.

3. THE BASIC PAPER (DS/ASG/74/76) REFERRED TO FOUR AREAS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE STUDY. THE FIRST IS BEING WORKED ON BY THE ADIT AND THE CNAD. THE SECOND AND THIRD IT WAS SUGGESTED, MIGHT BE REFERRED TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN NO AGREEMENT AT MINISTERIAL OR ANY OTHER LEVEL, TO PROCEED BEYOND THE FIRST STUDY. NO FURTHER ACTION CAN OR SHOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL THIS FIRST STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND ITS RESULTS ANALYSED. INDEED WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PRACTICABILITY AND INDEED THE VALUE OF EMBARKING ON THE SORT OF WIDE-RANGING; HIGH LEVEL ACTIVITY ENVISAGED IN THIS PAPER, AS WERE MADE CLEAR IN OUR MINISTER OF DEFENCE'S STATEMENT AT THE JUNE DPC. WE WELCOMED THE CNAD'S DECISION TO RESTRICT THE ADIT GROUP TO AN INITIAL PILOT STUDY AND BELIEVE THAT DECISIONS ON ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY WITHIN THE CNAD AND ELSEWHERE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN BEFORE WE HAVE THE RESULTS OF THIS FIRST EXERCISE. THE CNAD WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDY AT ITS MEETING IN OCTOBER.

4. OUR COMMENTS ON THE TEXT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PARAGRAPH 2(D).

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT OF WHAT MINISTERS SAID. THE
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ACTUAL STATEMENT WAS THAT MINISTERS' PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT IN THE PROVISION, FROM NATIONS, OF INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE'; WE REGARD THIS AS APPLYING TO PARTICULAR STUDIES THAT MAY BE AUTHORISED BY THE CNAD AND THE COUNCIL.

(B) PARAGRAPH 3, AT END, ADD: "AS DIRECTED BY THE CNAD".

(C) PARAGRAPH 5.

IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE BASIC IDEA HERE COMES VERY CLOSE TO WHAT THE ADIT GROUP WILL PRESUMABLY BE DOING; ONCE IT HAS COLLECTED THE INFORMATION ON THE SELECTED WEAPONS SYSTEMS, WHERE THERE IS OVERLAP IN R&D, IT WILL ATTEMPT TO ILLUSTRATE

WHAT BENEFITS WOULD ACCRUE FROM REMOVING THE OVERLAP. IF THIS PARAGRAPH IS RETAINED, WE SHOULD PROBABLY SUBSTITUTE FOR "EXPLAIN" IN LINE 4 "ASSIST ADIT IN EXPLAINING". AS REGARDS "PRODUCTION", WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY STUDY AT THIS EARLY STAGE WHICH REQUIRED US TO APPROACH BRITISH INDUSTRY FOR DATA. FINALLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF HOW THE "GIVEN WEAPONS SYSTEMS" WOULD BE SELECTED; THIS COULD NOT OF COURSE BE DONE BY US.

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(D) PARAGRAPH 8.

THE TASK OUTLINED HERE STRIKES US AS BEING MORE APPROPRIATE TO THE COMMITTEE AND MORE LIKELY TO BE OF VALUE THAN THE OTHER IDEAS IN THE PAPER. WE THINK THE KIND OF ANALYSIS OUTLINED WOULD COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF THE DIT GROUP AND SHOULD PROVIDE USEFUL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AGAINST WHICH TO JUDGE ANY PROPOSALS FOR REMEDIAL ACTION WHICH MIGHT EMERGE FROM THEM. THE "CONTRIBUTION OF TECHNOLOGY" ASPECT SHOULD PROBABLY BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF SUCH A STUDY, RATHER THAN A SEPARATE EXERCISE. OUR VIEW IS THAT THIS KIND OF STUDY REQUIRES FAIRLY BROAD TREATMENT AND THAT, RATHER THAN SELECT INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENTS, IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO ADDRESS EQUIPMENT FIELDS. HOWEVER, WE WONDER WHETHER INFORMATION OF THIS KIND IS ALREADY AVAILABLE; AND, IF NOT, WHETHER OUR COMMITTEE WOULD BE ABLE TO COLLECT AND HANDLE THE QUANTITY OF TECHNICAL DETAIL WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED.

(E) PARAGRAPH 10.

WE DOUBT WHETHER THE COMMITTEE SHOULD UNDERTAKE THIS WORK; WHETHER WE WERE TO DO SO, WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND ON A MAJOR DECISION BY THE CNAD AND THE COUNCIL. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR WHAT "CHOICE" IS BEING TALKED ABOUT IN LINE 3: SELECTION OF EQUIP-
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MENTS OF HIGH PRIORITY FOR STANDARDISATION, FUTURE COLLABORATIVE PROEJCTS?

(F) PARAGRAPH 11.

WE AGREE WITH THIS IN PRINCIPLE; IT ACCORDS WITH DISCUSSIONS AT THE JUNE EUROGROUP MEETING REGARDING THE EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(G) PARAGRAPH 12.

WE WOULD OPPOSE THIS (AS WE HAVE ALREADY DONE IN CNAD AND THE COUNCIL); COMMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 10 ALSO APPLY.

(H) PARAGRAPH 13.

IF THIS PARAGRAPH, WHICH WE CONSIDER SUPERFLUOUS, IS KEPT, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AD 70 REPORT, NOT ADIT.

(I) PARAGRAPH 14.

LINES 4-5, DELETE FROM "WHICH" TO "WEEKS".

LINE 7, FOR "IS" READ "WILL BE".

LINE 8, FOR "WILL" READ "WOULD"-BUT SEE OUR COMMENT ON PARAGRAPH 5. AT END, ADD "AS SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 8".

(J) PARAGRAPH 15.

MY PARAGRPH 3 IS RELEVANT. WE SUGGEST THIS PARAGRAPH MIGHT BE AMENDED TO READ: "THE ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WILL DEPEND LARGELY UPON DECISIONS OF THE CNAD; THEIR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF OCTOBER 1974 MIGHT FINALISE, A SERIES OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR THE NIAG AND THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

(K) PARAGRAPH 16.

WE SUGGEST THIS SHOULD BE INSERTED IN PARAGRAPH 9 AND SHOULD BE AMENDED TO READ "THE INFORMATION THUS OBTAINED SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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STITUTE A BASIS FOR ACTION BY THE CNAD, IN CO-ORDINATION WITH ADIT THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, NIAG, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE BODIES.

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